GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4116
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2005
ATROCITIES ON TRIBALS
Ponnuswamy Shri E.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `NHRC State probe into police violence on Tribals` reported in the Asian Age dated July 11, 2005;

(b) if so, the steps being envisaged to check atrocities of police on tribals in other parts of the country; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of a news item relating to alleged police violence on tribals protesting against non-payment of dues for land acquired for construction of a steel plant at Kalinganagar, Orissa.

(b)&(c): `Police` & `Public Order` are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, detection, registration, investigation, prosecution and prevention of crimes including atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs have issued advisories to the State Governments from time to time to give more focused attention to improving the administration of the criminal justice system with a view to controlling and preventing crimes including prevention of crime against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and other vulnerable sections of society the strict enforcement of provisions under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has also been emphasized.